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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 002643

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FO; NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR
DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: JUNE 27, 2005 (1800 HOURS LOCAL) --
TWO ISRAELIS KILLED IN ATTACK NEAR HEBRON; SETTLERS INVADE
CLOSED MILITARY AREA IN GAZA.

1. (SBU) Summary: Palestinian gunmen shot and killed two Israelis and injured two others outside Bayt Haggai settlement near Hebron June 24. PIJ and Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed credit. In subsequent IDF incursions into the area, the IDF shot and injured two Palestinians in Dura village, near Hebron. Israeli media and the IDF reported that ten Israeli settlers, one Israeli policeman, four Israeli Border Police officers and five IDF soldiers were lightly injured June 26 after dozens of settlers entered a closed military zone in al-Mowassi, Gaza, as the IDF was demolishing 11 vacant structures there. End summary.

West Bank

2. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: On Friday June 24, Palestinian gunmen fired on a group of Israelis, killing two and injuring two, as they waited at a hitchhiking post outside the West Bank Settlement of Beit Haggai near Hebron. Al-Aqsa Brigades and Islamic Jihad claimed joint responsibility for the attack. The IDF imposed a curfew on the villages of al-Fawar, Yatta, Dura, and Samou while searching for the perpetrators.

-- Injuries: In Dura, two Palestinians were lightly injured by IDF gunfire in clashes that erupted after the imposition of the curfew.

-- Injuries: On Friday June 24, a border policeman and at least six demonstrators were lightly wounded during a protest of some 200 Palestinians and international activists against the West Bank security wall near the village of Bil'in, west of Ramallah.

-- Arrests: On Friday night, the IDF arrested at least 14 PIJ activists in the Hebron area, including one female militant, Arij Bader, on suspicion of affiliation with the PIJ and intention of carrying out a suicide attack.

-- Arrests: On Saturday June 25, IDF forces entered into the Allar and other villages in the Tulkarm area, and arrested 7 PIJ activists.

-- Arrests: Amidst several gun battles, PA security officials arrested 18 men in connection with the Jenin shooting death of a PA police officer in an attack on a police station on June 23, but the primary suspect, Sa'ad al-Amin, remained at large.

Gaza

3. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Riots/Injuries: Israeli media and the IDF reported that 10 Israeli settlers, one Israeli policeman, four Israeli Border Police officers and five IDF soldiers were lightly injured June 26 after dozens of settlers entered a closed military zone in al-Mowassi, as the IDF was demolishing 11 vacant structures there. The IDF undertook the demolition in order to prevent the use of the illegal outpost by extremist settlers, according to a statement released by the IDF spokesman's office. UNRWA reported that some 500 settlers took part, and Israeli media reported that the settlers took over and damaged a bulldozer and several IDF vehicles, before the settlers withdrew to the area around the Beach Hotel. Israeli media reported that on June 27 that settlers had returned to the area and were camped in the rubble of the demolished buildings.

-- Injury: UNRWA reported that four Palestinians, two of them children age 11 and 12, were injured in the al-Attatra area of the Rafah refugee camp June 26 when an explosive device

they were handling went off. The two men were critically injured; the children sustained light injuries, according to UNRWA.

-- Mortars/Rockets: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants fired a total of seven mortar shells and two anti-tank missiles at IDF and Israeli settler targets in the Gaza Strip June 25-27. Militants fired a Qassam rocket at Kibbutz Nir Am June 26. No injuries were reported in any of these attacks.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants launched a total of eight shooting attacks at IDF and Israeli settler targets in the Gaza Strip June 25-27.

-- Explosions: The IDF reported that Palestinian police found and safely disposed of an IED approximately two kilometers northeast of Kissufim Crossing June 26. IDF soldiers found and deactivated a second IED in the same area later the same day.

14. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open June 25-27, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open June 24-26, and 2,547 laborers and 210 merchants crossed into Israel June 24; 225 laborers and 47 merchants crossed June 25; and 5,730 laborers crossed and 450 merchants crossed into Israel June 16.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone remained closed June 24-25. It re-opened June 26, and 550 laborers entered.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed June 25. On June 26-27, Sufa was closed for Palestinian laborers, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open June 25-27.

-- The PA Ministry for Civil Affairs closed Rafah Terminal for arrivals June 25, in order to facilitate the crossing of the backlog of hundreds of Palestinians waiting on the Egyptian side. On June 26-27, Rafah was open for both arrivals and departures.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed June 22. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except males aged 16-30
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